

State Workforce Information and Regional Economies: “Next Steps”

June 20, 2007

Visioning Exercise

1. Identify key leanings from the conference that relate to your state’s workforce information and regional economies

- Data rich and information poor
- Regional economies come in various shapes and sizes, crossing boundaries
- Shift to skill attainment from degree attainment
- Neighboring states have the same issues we have.
- Identify and use data to service customers – packaging customization
- Customers must see value in what we provide
- The need to identify and include partners, including agencies and stakeholders is paramount.
- How do we evolve to be able to blend
- We need to develop the “speed of trust”
- Communication networks are key to developing partnerships, trust, maximizing limited resources, communicating initiatives among partners.
- Scanning capabilities for change – need to be more forward-thinking than backward thinking.
- Focus on branding and marketing

2. List new approaches, tools, and enhancements to the current state workforce information system that will better serve regional economies

- We need to identify areas of commonalities
- LED is good, necessary tool.
- Need demonstrations and training for use of identified tools.
- Setting a timetable for performing gap analysis.
- Need to share current tools, reports, and services among partner agencies.
- Develop inter-agency strategic leadership teams between ED, IWD, DE and the governor’s office to provide information to inform decisions and direction.
- Development of tools to utilize data between IWD and ED.
- Ongoing system on how to interpret and use data.
- Design websites customized for particular customer types – similar to individual portals;
ref: econdata.net seta.iastate.edu; iowadatatcenter.org

3. Identify ways that key constituency groups can work better together to advance the use of workforce information to support regional economies within your state.

- Identify stakeholder groups.
- Bring stakeholders together to design websites.
- Leadership group (upper level policy group): State agency administrators, representative from governor's office, and identified stakeholders.
- Stakeholder groups – state agencies, business groups, educators, international and cross-cultural communities, Professional Developers of Iowa, etc.
- Bottom-up approach. Bottom-up group informs leadership direction.
- Identify which are the immediate groups of stakeholders – that should work together on identified projects, to align initiatives, policy directions, and share resources, data, etc. Agencies should inventory activities to service businesses and education, etc. that require identified stakeholder participation.
- Hold inter-agency focus groups with stakeholder to identify ways to better serve customers needs together.
- Work to design a system to disseminate information in useable formats for customers.

4. List steps to advance this session's recommendation within your state

- Representatives from the WIRED meeting will submit a joint report to their respective agencies, and invite IDED to participate.
- Representatives from each state agency need to identify stakeholders and leadership team participants and schedule a first meeting.
- Request that leadership of the state agencies empower this committee to continue its work
- Form a cross-agency leadership team
- Identify **action steps**
- Identify LMI data user groups

5. Identify ways to enhance cross-state and/or multi-state workforce information collaboration, where advantageous to do so.

- Education access to education Wris data.
- Create departmental listserv to enable communications on issues and projects.
- Meet regularly